Indian Telecommunications Services

4216. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI PARBHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research Bombay, the Indian telecom services are far behind other countries in quantity, quality and pricing;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for further improvement in telecom services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) DoT is aware of the Chapter on "Telecommunications" of the report of study conducted by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research. Eventhough the Indian telecommunication network may not be comparable to that of developed countries, considerable progress has been made in Indian telecom network during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

During the first four years of Eighth Plan the network has more than doubled. There has been steady improvement in the quality of servicve with the introduction of electronic digital switches for local as well as long distance swithing, Digital Transmission Systems, Optical Fibre Systems and improvement in customer premises equipment. Further penetration of these latest technology systems in the network during the Ninth Plan will bring more improvement in the Quality of Service.

The Government have also allowed private sector participation in value added services and basic services to supplement the efforts of DoT in improving the quality and quantity of Indian Telecom Network.

The prices of telecom service in India are determined, taking into account India's ground realities, particularly the necessity of supporting rural telecom network and generating surpluses for ploughing back for infrastructural development, growth and expansions.

[English]

Amount spent on Travelling by MP's

4217. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent on travelling by Members of Parliament by Rail during the last two years;

(b) the total expenditure in providing free rail passes to Freedom Fighters during the above period;

(c) whether there are plans to minimise expenditure on the above two categories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Debits raised on Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha for rail travel of MPs during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is Rs. 4.35 crores.

(b) Debits raised on Ministry of Home Affairs for rail travel of Freedom Fighters during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is Rs. 102.29 crores.

(c) and (d) There is no such plan with this Ministry.

Night Landing Facilities

4218. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI RAJU RANA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide night landing facilities to some airports during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details of such airports; and

(c) the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Night Landing Facilities will be installed at Tirupati, Lilabari and Jammu airports during 1997-98. During 1998-99 no airport has been identified so far for providing this facility.

(c) The amount earmarked is Tirupati Rs. 40 lakhs, Lilabari Rs. 140 lakhs and Jammu Rs. 126 lakhs.

Advertisements

4219. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government give advertisements in various newspapers for inauguration of various railway projects;

(b) if so, the details of such advertisements given from June 15, 1996 till date;

(c) the amount spent thereon;

(d) the amount spent in this regard during the corresponding period in the last two years;

(e) whether the amount spent during the current year is much more as compared to previous year; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.